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RETAIL TRADE IN THE USSR; CRITICISM OF
 SOVIET TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, SEPTEMBER 1953

[The following report represents a compilation of articles dealing with retail trade in consumer goods in the USSR from the Soviet press in September 1953.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

According to Izvestiya of 9 September 1953, the USSR had approximately 8,500 kolkhoz markets located in most cities and rayons, in most of the workers' settlements, and at many railroad stations.

The paper urged all market administrations to conclude agreements with kolkhozes for the sale of surplus potatoes, vegetables, and other products. In the first half of 1953, Moscow markets entered into approximately 2,000 such agreements.(1)

A September 1953 article in Trud stated that the Main Administrations of Workers' Supply of the industrial ministries have improved their operations considerably. Commodity turnover and the trade network were continually expanding. For example, within the Main Administration of Workers' Supply of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry, the level of commodity turnover in the first half of 1953 almost doubled the average monthly turnover of 1950. By 1 July 1953, the network of retail trade and public eating enterprises of the administration had reached 4,758 units, as compared to 2,941 on 1 January 1950. Well equipped stores have been opened in Nebit-Dag, Krasnodar, Baku, and a number of rayons of Tatarskaya and Bashkirskaya oblasts.

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However, the paper continued, the number of new units put into operation still lags behind the plan. By the end of 1953, 246 new units were scheduled to be leased by the administration, including 110 stores, 47 dining rooms, vegetable storehouses, and cold-storage places. However, by September 1953, only 90 of the 246 units were ready to be put into operation.

The paper also complained that in some stores and dining rooms many malpractices, such as embezzlement of goods, short measuring, and short weighing, were still in existence.(2)

According to another Izvestiya article, 32 billion rubles' worth of goods, in addition to the 312 billion rubles' worth originally allocated, were to be put on sale in the USSR in April-December 1953.

The newspaper also stated that there has been a sharp increase in the quantities of lumber, cement, iron, nails, slate, roofing tile, motor gasoline and other petroleum products, and coal available for sale. Sales of automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, diesel motors, locomotives, electric motors, radio receivers, and sewing machines also increased.

In September 1953, consumers cooperatives in the USSR included over 259,000 trading enterprises. In 1954, capital investment in the construction of stores and shops was expected to increase more than threefold over 1953, while expenditures for the construction of bases and warehouses were to be almost doubled.

The article stated that many rayons and rural areas lacked enough stores. In Shklovskiy Rayon of Mogilevskaya Oblast, for example, there were 90 trading enterprises before the war; in September 1953, there were only 70. The organization of cooperative trade was also very poor, the article continued. In many cases, regular delivery of goods to the stores was not provided for, and trading hours were not adhered to. Trade workers still failed to analyze consumer demands; there were surplus deliveries of goods in some rayons and insufficient deliveries in others.(3)

Moscow

According to Moskovskaya Pravda of September 1953, more and more consumer goods were appearing in Moscow stores. Silk and cotton fabrics of various shades, textile and leather footwear of many styles, top-quality ready-to-wear clothing, and many other products were being produced by industry in an ever increasing volume.

The article also stated that in the second quarter 1953, as compared with the same period in 1952, sales of woolen fabrics increased 13.2 percent, silk fabrics, 21 percent, sewn goods, 43.7 percent, and leather footwear, 13.3 percent.(4)

In another September 1953 article, Moskovskaya Pravda reported that there were 30 kolkhoz markets in Moscow, which could accommodate 15,000 people at one time, as compared with 7,700 people in 1940. The markets were equipped with approximately 13,000 scales (compared with 3,000 in 1940) and employed over 1,400 persons. The division for the organization of kolkhoz trade in the Moscow Market Administration had concluded 1,971 agreements for the delivery of 152,000 tons of various products; 1,471 of these agreements were with kolkhozes of Moskovskaya Oblast and 500 with kolkhozes of other oblasts.

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According to the same article, 218 milk-collecting points and 149 points for the collection of potatoes and vegetables have been established in the rayons of Moskovskaya Oblast. In the first half of 1953, the milk-collecting points delivered 3,627 tons of milk to Moscow, while the produce-collecting points delivered 6,530 tons of various produce. The delivery of a varied assortment of agricultural products to kolkhoz markets was continually increasing. In 1952, 381,250 tons were delivered, as compared with 148,745 tons in 1940. According to the plan for 1953, over 400,000 tons of various agricultural products were to be delivered to the markets.

However, the article continued, not one market had an adequate vegetable storehouse. Vegetables and fruit were stored overnight either in unsuitable shelters or outdoors.

The article stated that only 28 to 30 percent of all goods brought to market were delivered under an organized plan. The market administration, while entering into agreements with kolkhozes, often failed to abide by the rules of these agreements, e.g., by not furnishing transport facilities to kolkhozes for the delivery of produce.(5)

According to Vechernyaya Moskva of September 1953, the Ministry of Trade USSR was organizing two specialized trading centers in Moscow and Leningrad, the "Moscow Fish Products Trading Center" and the "Leningrad Fish Products Trading Center." Twenty of the Glavrybtorg (Main Administration of Fish Sales) stores were being transferred to the "Moscow Fish Products Trading Center." Capital repair and re-equipment of these stores were to be undertaken. The organization of these specialized trade centers was to be completed by 15 November 1953.(6)

Leningrad

Leningradskaya Pravda reported on 3 September 1953 that 400,000 more rubles' worth of food and manufactured goods were sold in Leningrad in the first half of 1953 than in the same period of 1952. Many new, well equipped stores were opened. New specialized trade organizations for the sale of bakery products, milk, vegetables, clothing, footwear, and textiles were also created. However, the work of many trade organizations far from answered consumer demands the paper continued. Many trade organizations failed to meet the commodity turnover plan, and one organization did not even equal last year's performance.

Many trade organizations, disregarding consumer demands were satisfied with a limited assortment and low quality of goods, showed no initiative in exploiting local resources for the expansion of commodity turnover, and were not giving good service to the consumer.

The newspaper criticized the city market administration for not giving enough attention to the problems of construction, planning, and organization of markets, and to the creation of proper trading conditions for the kolkhoz farmers who come to the markets.(7)

Another article in Leningradskaya Pravda criticized the combines of the "Lenpiodovoshch'torg" (Leningrad Fruit and Vegetable Trading Organization) for failing to conduct timely and accurate processing of vegetables. For example, in August 1953, Vegetable Combine No 2 received many cases of cabbage and potatoes and stacked them in the open, although storage facilities were available. As a result, the produce was spoiled. Spoilage also existed in warehouses, where vegetables lay unsorted for weeks. Practically all combines were short of workers, and the majority of those on hand were occupied with loading and unloading of vegetables. Only 20 percent of the loading and unloading work was mechanized at Combine No 2.

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The same newspaper also reported that by September 1953, 46 bakeries had already been re-equipped in Leningrad and 26 bakeries were to undergo repairs [during 1953]. Sanitary conditions in bread-baking and bakery enterprises were improving. Refrigerators were installed in the confectionery departments of 28 stores. The "Lenkhlebtorg" (Leningrad Trading Organization for the Sale of Bread) had more than 400 stores in operation.(8)

According to Sovetskaya Moldaviya of 30 September 1953, over 150 new food and vegetable stores have been opened in Leningrad in the first 9 months of 1953. By the end of 1953, 30 additional trading enterprises were expected to be opened.(9)

Leningradskaya Pravda of 9 September 1953 stated that approximately 200 food and manufactured-goods stores, tents, and bakeries served the workers of Nevskiy Rayon, and that the network of trade enterprises was still expanding.(10)

Other RSFSR Cities and Oblasts

Pravda reported that in the first 7 months of 1953 the inhabitants of the rural areas around Novosibirsk had acquired, through consumers cooperatives, large numbers of pianos, more than 200 motorcycles, over 6,000 bicycles, 1,500 radio receivers, about 2,000 sewing machines, and over 40,000 watches. Almost ten million rubles' worth of silk fabrics have also been sold.

Trade in construction materials and household goods was also expanding, the article stated. During the first 7 months of 1953, 2 1/2 times more iron, wire, nails, and slate have been sold than during the same period of 1952. Kolkhozes also acquired 170 trucks and 7 passenger cars through the consumers cooperatives.(11)

According to Izvestiya of 5 September 1953, consumers cooperatives of Kirovskaya Oblast sold 41 million rubles' worth more goods in the first 7 months of 1953 than in the same period of 1952. There had been an increase in sales of silk fabrics, clothing, leather footwear, sewing machines, radios, and bicycles. Kolkhozes bought tens of motors and hundreds of motor vehicles in consumer cooperative stores.

Another article in the same paper stated that in Smolenskaya Oblast the demand for consumer goods and the commodity turnover of state and cooperative trade were increasing. In the last few months [before September 1953], 20 new stores had been opened in cities and villages of the oblast.(12)

According to another article in Izvestiya, about 250 new stores, more than 150 stalls, and scores of dining rooms were opened in Molotovskaya oblast in 1952. However, the number of trade enterprises was still inadequate and the distribution poor. These shortcomings were especially acute in timber-processing and rural areas. The inhabitants of many populated areas were not even able to buy essential consumer goods in their immediate vicinity.

The article also stated that stores were not being built quickly enough in new workers' settlements. Although the Workers' Supply Administration of the "Molotovsk" Combine was scheduled to build 150 new stores in 1952, it built only 50.

Surpluses of goods were piled up at warehouses and bases because of the unsatisfactory organization of trade, the article continued. The Aleksandrov Trading Organization received enough soap to last 19 years, enough perfume to last 6 years, and enough china and porcelain goods to last 5 years; yet soap and other essential goods have not been available in stores of Shchuch'ye-Ozerskiy Rayon for some time. Supply bases were often well stocked with grocery products, while stores lacked a minimum assortment of these items.(13)

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According to Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, kolkhozes in Stavropol'skiy Kray, RSFSR, were expanding their sales of agricultural surpluses to consumers cooperatives. From the beginning of 1953, the sale of various products to consumers cooperatives was twice as great as in the same period of 1952. The sale of meat was 2.5 times that of the corresponding period of 1952, the sale of butter and honey was doubled, and the sale of fruit increased sixfold. Consumers cooperatives in turn have considerably expanded their trade in manufactured goods.(14)

According to Sovetskaya Litva of 1 September 1953, large shipments of goods to Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula have been delivered by ship in 1953. The stores of Kamchatka were receiving high-quality footwear, ready-to-wear clothing, silk and woolen fabrics, bicycles, motorcycles, radios, and food products from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, and other cities of the country. In the first 7 months of 1953, more than 600 million rubles' worth of goods have been sold to workers of the oblast, almost as much as in the first 9 months of 1952.(15)

Belorussian SSR

According to pravda of 2 September 1953, 235 kolkhoz markets were operating in cities, rayon centers, and workers' settlements of the Belorussian SSR. In the month of August 1953 alone, more than 12 million rubles' worth of agricultural produce was sold to the city population through kolkhoz markets. On 31 August 1953, approximately 200 tons of vegetables were delivered to Minsk markets from 97 kolkhozes. This was almost ten times more than the average daily delivery in August 1952.(16)

According to an article in Sovetskaya Estoniya, over 30 million rubles have been spent in the postwar years on the construction of trade enterprises in Minsk. In the last two years [1952-1953], 60 stores have been set up in newly constructed residential dwellings. Tens of trade enterprises were to be opened in 1953. The network of specialized stores in Minsk was also expanding.(17)

However, according to an article in Sovetskaya Belorussiya, trade in Minsk still suffered from most serious shortcomings. Tens of trade enterprises and organizations were not fulfilling the commodity turnover plan. A number of store managers and directors of trading organizations tolerated irregular delivery of goods to stores, which led to disruptions in trade. In the second quarter 1953, Minsk trading organizations failed to use their stocks of cotton fabric, hosiery, milk, and other products. "Khlebertorg" (Bread Trading Organization), for example, failed to fulfill its commodity turnover plan by more than 4 million rubles. In a survey of hundreds of stores, infractions of Soviet trade rules were observed in half of them.(18)

According to another article in Sovetskaya Belorussiya, over 200 million rubles have been spent in the last 3 years on the construction and organization of trade enterprises of the Belorussian SSR. In 1953, 88 million rubles have been allocated for that purpose. The quantity of goods going on sale in the stores has also been increasing. In 1953, over 300 million rubles' worth of additional food and manufactured products were allocated to the republic.

The article also stated that the Ministry of Trade did not meet the commodity turnover plan as a whole for the first half of 1953, and also failed to meet the capital construction plan both for 1952 and for the first 7 months of 1953, thus disrupting the schedule for the opening of specialized footwear, clothing, and other stores.(19)

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According to a September issue of Pravda Ukrainy, the trade network serving the rail workers of the Southwest Railroad System was being enlarged. At the Kiev Locomotive Terminal imeni Andreyev, a large manufactured goods store with departments for ready-to-wear clothing, footwear, fabrics, and knitwear has been opened. Trade has also begun in the well equipped food store for rail workers at Chokolovka.

New trading enterprises were also being opened on the line, the article continued. A food store for the workers of the Chernigovsk Terminal has been put into service. The equipping of a manufactured goods store and a food store for rail workers of Belaya Tserkov' in Marinovka was being completed, and a food store for workers of the Korosten' Terminal was being constructed. In addition, a large department store was to be opened in Darnitsa. Altogether 12 stores, 3 dining rooms, and 2 bakeries were to be opened in 1953 on the Southwest Railroad System. Four more railway-car stores have been equipped to travel along the line.(20)

According to an item in Vechernnyaya Moskva, new rural stores were being opened in many rajons of Khar'kovskaya Oblast. Twenty-four new rural stores have begun operations in the first 7 months of 1953. Since the start of 1953, commodity turnover in the rural network has increased 23.3 percent.(21)

An article in Turkmenkaya Iskra stated that there were 973 stores and 419 lumber warehouses trading in construction materials in rural areas and rayon centers of the Ukrainian SSR. Twenty of the stores and lumber warehouses were opened during the first 7 months of 1953. In Kiyevskaya Oblast alone, over 90 stores and 25 lumber warehouses were selling construction materials to kollektors farmers.(22)

According to Komsomol'skaya Pravda of 12 September 1953, more than 150 large stores were put into operation in Dnepropetrovsk, Krivoy Rog, and Dneprodzerzhinsk in the past year and a half. A specialized footwear store and a model "Gostinets" store with six departments were also opened in Dnepropetrovsk. A large manufactured goods store began operations in Dneprodzerzhinsk, and specialized stores of "Ukrodezhdas" (Ukrainian Trade Organization for the Sale of Clothing) were opened in Krivoy Rog and Nikopol. By the end of 1953, tens of trading enterprises were to be put into operation in the cities of Dnepropetrovskaya Oblast.(23)

Pravda Ukrainy reported on 12 September 1953 that in 1952 more than 2,300 stores, food, and public eating enterprises were opened in cities and villages of the Ukrainian SSR. In the first half of 1953, the trade network of the Ukrainian SSR increased by more than 2,000 units. However, the 1952 plan for construction of dining rooms was not completed, and the 1953 plan was not being adequately fulfilled. In the first half of 1953, local trading organizations and dining trusts opened only 37 of 120 dining rooms planned for 1953.(24)

In a later article, Pravda Ukrainy presented a review of letters from workers critical of Soviet trade. One writer decried the lack of corks for thermos bottles stating that it was possible to get a new cork only by buying a new thermos bottle. Many residents of Chernevo Village of Shalyginskiy Rayon, Sumskaya Oblast, complained about the short supply of batteries for radio receivers. A letter from Izmail complained about the lack of children's suits, trousers, and coats.(25)

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In another September 1953 article, Pravda Ukrainy reported that commodity turnover in Stalinskaya Oblast has increased 20 percent as compared with 1952. Several stores have been opened in Gorlovka and by the end of 1953, 13 new stores dealing in jewelry, furniture, electrical appliances, and food were to be opened. More than 40 new stores were opened in Zhdanov. By September, there were over 5,300 stores and approximately 3,000 public eating establishments in the oblast and, by the end of 1953, approximately 300 more stores and dining rooms were to be put into operation. Sales in the following consumer goods have increased considerably: meat, sausage products, milk, clothing, footwear, knitwear, and silk.(26)

In a 24 September article, Izvestiya reported that Khar'kov had 943 general shops, 90 tailoring shops, 1,182 food and manufactured goods stores, and over 1,000 stalls. A network of stores specializing in dietetic, meat, dairy, and other products has also been created.(27)

Lithuanian SSR

According to Sovetskaya Litva of 8 September 1953, the trade network in the Lithuanian SSR was undergoing a general expansion. The number of specialized stores selling clothing, footwear, and cultural products was being increased. In rural localities, consumer cooperative stores as well as rayon and rural stores were to sell more textiles, footwear, sewing machines, and knitted fabrics. In the fourth quarter 1953, the government has increased allocations of manufactured goods for consumers cooperatives by 50 percent. Consumers cooperatives were to receive an additional 3,800,000 rubles' worth of wool fabrics, and an additional 1.5 million rubles' worth of silk and other manufactured goods. The sale of food and manufactured goods in state trade was also increasing greatly.

However, the article stated that many trading organizations of the republic were not serving the consumer adequately. Sales personnel failed to observe store hours and were rude to customers. The fixed assortment minimum for goods was not adhered to, and suburban stores had shortages of essential commodities.(28)

In another September 1953 article, Sovetskaya Litva reported that 10 million rubles' worth of goods were being sold in the Vil'nyus department store every month. This figure was over a million rubles more than in any month of 1952. However, deficiencies in the assortment and quality of goods, particularly sewn goods and footwear, were still in existence.(29)

Finally, Sovetskaya Litva of 11 September 1953 announced that in the fourth quarter 1953 the trade network of the Ministry of Trade Lithuanian SSR was to sell certain commodities over and above regular allocations as follows: 9 million rubles' worth of silk fabrics, 14.5 million rubles' worth of ready-to-wear clothing, and more than one million rubles' worth of new-style footwear. In the second half of 1953, several thousand radio receivers, thousands of wrist watches, tens of Pobeda and Moskvich passenger cars, many sewing machines, and a large quantity of construction materials were also to go on sale in addition to the regular allocations. In addition, in the second half of 1953, 98 percent more meat, 40 percent more fish, 42 percent more sausage products, 125 percent more vegetable oil, and 37 percent more sugar were to be sold than during the same period of 1952.(30)

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In an article of 19 September 1953, Sovetskaya Estoniya reported that the volume of retail trade in the Estonian SSR in the second quarter 1953 increased 23 percent over the same period of 1952. In the first 8 months of 1953, 30 percent more goods were sold in the manufactured goods stores of Kokhtla-Yarve than in the same period of 1952. The inhabitants of Kokhtla-Yarve acquired over 4 million rubles' worth of cotton and silk fabrics alone.

However, the article continued, serious shortcomings and disruptions in trade still existed. Goods often could not be found in the stores even when they were available at the warehouses and bases, and essential commodities such as laundry soap, salt, and baking soda were not always on sale.(31)

Karelo-Finnish SSR

According to Leninskoye Znamya of 1 September 1953, the number of trade enterprises in Petrozavodsk has increased from 375 in 1950 to 480 in 1953. In the first half of 1953, compared with the same period in 1952, commodity turnover increased by 16 million rubles. The sale of basic food and manufactured goods, such as sugar, fats, hosiery, silk fabrics, leather footwear, etc., increased considerably. The demand for durable goods also increased sharply. In the first 6 months of 1953, compared with the same period of 1952, sales increased as follows: bicycles, 550 percent; radios, 150 percent; accordions, 340 percent; motorcycles, 60 percent; and metal beds, 180 percent.(32)

In another article, Leninskoye Znamya declared that the wholesale base of the Karelo-Finnish Consumers Union was increasing its deliveries of manufactured goods to various rayons of the republic. In 1953, the value of bicycles, phonographs, and photographic equipment consigned to rayons was hundreds of thousands of rubles above that of 1952.

The article also stated that the demand for textile goods was growing. The "Tekstil'sbyt" [Administration for the Sale of Textiles?] base sold 97,461,000 rubles' worth of woolen, silk, and cotton fabrics in the first 8 months of 1953.(33)

Leninskoye Znamya also criticized a number of stores for failing regularly to meet the commodity turnover plan. For example, in one of the "Pishchetorg" stores in July [1953], such items as sugar, barley products, macaroni, nonalcoholic beverages, and many other everyday products were not on sale.

The network of public dining enterprises was also inadequate, the article complained. In many public dining rooms and snack bars, the menu was very limited and the quality of food was low. Some public dining enterprises operated under difficult conditions. For example, in one restaurant the whole process of food preparation was done manually; special equipment was not used for lack of space. In 1953, only two new dining rooms were to be put into service.(32)

In still another article, Leninskoye Znamya declared that operations of wholesale warehouses were still poorly organized and resulted in a frequent pile up of nonmoving goods. For example, on 1 July 1953, the QRS (Workers' Supply Division) of the "Pitkyaranta" Cellulose Plant had accumulated the following large surpluses for which there was little popular demand: 450,000 rubles' worth of cotton fabrics, 200,000 rubles' worth of leather footwear, 100,000 rubles' worth of rubber footwear, and 57,000 rubles' worth of other goods. At the same time, goods which were in constant demand, such as skillets, washboards, scissors, electric coils, electric cords, aluminum forks and spoons, etc., were not on sale.(34)

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According to a 25 September 1953 issue of Sovetskaya Latvija, in all equipped stores, dining rooms, and cafes were being opened in Riga. In the first 8 months of 1953, 26 state and cooperative stores selling food and manufactured goods have been put into operation in Riga. (35)

Moldavian SSR

Sovetskaya Moldaviya reported in a September 1953 article that by September 1953 sales of essential manufactured and food commodities in the Moldavian SSR have increased considerably over the corresponding period of 1952. Retail commodity turnover increased by 69 million rubles. However, the paper continued, the Ministry of Trade and the Moldavian Union of Consumers' Cooperatives failed completely in their attempt to provide consumers with commodities for individual cities and rayons. As a result, millions of rubles' worth of commodities accumulated at the rural and urban warehouses. (36)

The article went on to say that many trade enterprises of rayon consumers' cooperative unions were short of men's clothing, shoes, and other types of footwear. The rural trade network was also short of horses, salt, soap, lamps, and footwear, all of which were available at local warehouses. (36)

In another September 1953 article, Sovetskaya Moldaviya stated that the trade network in Flokodesky Rayon, Moldavian SSR, included 10 retail trade and 10 public eating enterprises. The commodity turnover in 1953 increased by more than 125 percent as compared with 1952, and the retail trade network increased by 133 percent. The Rayon Union of Consumers' Cooperatives contained a number of large trading enterprises, including seven rural stores, one rayon department store, and special food and household-goods stores. Another department store, a tearoom, and a salt warehouse were also under construction. (37)

Armenian SSR

According to a report of 6 September 1953, the retail trade network further the retail trade network in Yerevan did not only supply the city with direct consumer goods, but also during the past few years, 25 stores were put into operation in Yerevan. However, the paper continued, consumer demands were still not being satisfied. The reason for this, according to the paper, was the production of consumer goods. The retail trade network of the city failed to supply the retail trade network with the assortment of the assortment of goods. (38)

The article also stated that the consumers of the city complained that the retail trade network was not concerned enough with the timely utilization of the increased commodity stocks. It was found that some "richshetars" (riches) were short of such products as jam, beer, kumroni, fish, potatoes, oil, canned fish, and mineral water, although sufficient quantities of these commodities could be found at local warehouses. (38)

Public dining in Yerevan was poorly organized and provided only a limited assortment and low quality of dishes in dining rooms of industrial enterprises. Trade organizations were not supplying the city population with enough bread, vegetables, potatoes, and fruit. Consumer goods were also of inferior quality and the selection, placement, and training of workers was unsatisfactory. (39)

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In an 18 September article, Kommunist reported that a new rural store, the 55th to date, has been opened in Aparan, Armenian SSR. Like all rural stores, it carries a wide assortment of silk, woolen, and cotton fabrics, footwear, knitwear, ready-to-wear clothing, and food products.

The article stated that the network of stores in the republic was continually increasing. Twenty-two new rural stores were to be opened in Vedinskiy, Shaumyanskiy, Gorisskiy, and Idzhevanskiy rayons, and rural stores were to be opened in Azizbekovski, Akhtinskiy, and Basargechanskiy rayons. (39)

Kommunist reported that the population of cities and rural areas of the Armenian SSR was exhibiting an ever greater demand for everyday electrical appliances and products. According to the article, Special Store No 1 of the Main Administration for the Sale of Electrical Industry Products in Yerevan had 320 to 370 different types of electrical products on sale. New items such as electric floor polishers, record players, shavers, and combination tea kettles and samovars were quickly bought up. The store fulfilled the commodity turnover plan 115 percent in the first half of 1953.

The newspaper complained that republic industry was not producing enough of the electrical products sold in the Armenian SSR. Most of the goods were obtained from Leningrad, Moscow, Saratov, Kiev, and Riga. Consumers also complained justifiably about the quality of products, particularly washing machines and refrigerators. (40)

Georgian SSR

Vechernyaya Moskva reported on 3 September 1953 that a new footwear store of the "Gruzobuv'torg" (Georgian Footwear Trading Organization) and a new "Gruzodezhda" (Georgian Clothing Trading Organization) store have been put into operation in Tbilisi. In the first 8 months of 1953, over 70 stores, stalls, and pavilions have been opened in Tbilisi. Half of them are located in outlying districts. (21)

Zarya Vostoka of 6 September 1953 also mentioned the opening of several new trading organizations in Tbilisi -- the Tbilisi "Tekstil'torg" (Trade Organization for the Sale of Textiles), which has been organized to sell textile products and which took over four "Tbilpromtorg" (Tbilisi Manufactured Goods Trading Organization) stores, and two other specialized textile stores. Branch stores of new trading organizations were also being opened in Sukhumi, Batumi, and Kutaisi. (41)

According to another September article in Zarya Vostoka, the retail trade network in Batumi, Georgian SSR, acquired three new delicatessen and grocery stores, and a children's store since the beginning of 1953. Two more specialized stores, a dishware, furniture, and cultural-goods store, and a bakery were opened in the beginning of September 1953.

Two "Gruzodezhda" and one "Gruzobuv'" stores were being put into operation. The new stores were artistically decorated and furnished with the latest equipment. (42)

Azerbaijdzhan SSR

According to Bakinskiy Rabochiy of 6 September 1953, 19 million rubles' worth of food and manufactured commodities were sold in the villages of Tazviskiy Rayon, Azerbaijdzhan SSR, during the first 7 months of 1953, including 7.5 million rubles' worth of cotton fabrics, 2.5 million rubles' worth of sugar and confectionery products, furniture, beds, and various other products. A new dining room for workers of the Taz Cement Plant was put into operation. Construction of a large store for the sale of manufactured and food commodities was also near completion in Taz City. (43)

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In another September article, Bakinskiy Rabochiy reported that workers of the Azerbaydzhan petroleum rayons were acquiring more and more manufactured commodities, including furniture, motorcycles, bicycles, refrigerators, radio receivers, etc. As of September 1953, more than 200 stores in the petroleum rayons dealt in manufactured goods; 55 were specialized, selling footwear, ready-to-wear clothing, furniture, and cultural goods. Recently 25 new specialized stores were put into operation in Kirovskiy, Shaumyanovskiy, Stalin-skiy, Kishlinskiy, and other Baku rayons.(44)

Kazakh SSR

According to Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of 5 September 1953, 11 percent more fabrics, 26 percent more sewn goods, and 27 percent more knitted products were sold in Kazakhstan in the first quarter 1953 than in the first quarter 1952. Sales of food, radio receivers, watches, bicycles, furniture, and other goods have greatly increased. In the second half of 1953, as compared with the second half of 1952, the sale of meat was to increase 51.4 percent, butter, 46.3 percent, sugar, 32.6 percent, and sausage products, 23 percent.

During the first half of 1953, 322 trade and food enterprises were opened in the republic, the article stated. The network of specialized stores has grown. However, the paper complained, many trade organizations were lagging behind in plan fulfillment, chiefly because of an unsatisfactory organization of trade. Many millions of rubles' worth of goods have been piled up in bases and stores, and large amounts of goods were detained at distribution bases.(45)

In another September 1953 article, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda reported that during 2 1/2 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan more than 30 new stores were put into operation in villages of Northern Kazakhstan. New buildings for housewares and cultural-goods stores were being constructed in rayon centers of Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast.

According to the article, since the beginning of 1953, kolkhoz workers, mechanization specialists, and the rural intelligentsia have bought 6 million more rubles' worth of manufactured and food commodities than in the same period of 1952. Sales of motorcycles and bicycles have doubled, sales of leather and rubber footwear increased 50 percent, and sales of suits, overcoats, dresses, and other sewn products increased by one million rubles, as compared with the corresponding period of 1952.(46)

Kirgiz SSR

Sovetskaya Kirgiziya of 4 September 1953 reported that new stores, dining rooms, bakeries, and warehouses were being constructed in the timber industry enterprises.

Another article in the same newspaper reported that a new manufactured goods store opened in Bishkek on 1 September 1953. In its first day of operation, it sold over 200,000 rubles' worth of woolen, silk, and cotton fabrics, overcoats, men's, women's, and children's suits, knitwear, footwear, and other goods.

In the first 8 months of 1953, 24 new stores, dining rooms, and tearooms have been opened in the cities and villages of Kabarda, and by the end of 1953 just as many more were to be put into operation. The construction of a new kolkhoz market in the capital of the republic was also begun.(47)

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In another September 1953 issue of Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, it was stated that to correct the serious shortcomings of the trade network in villages, consumers cooperatives have spent approximately 10 million rubles on the construction of new stores and warehouses since the beginning of 1953. In several rayons, new rayon department stores, several rural department stores, and a number of tearooms and warehouses were to be constructed.

According to the article, direct procurement has been widely expanded by consumers cooperatives. The personal material interest of the kolkhozes and kolkhoz farmers in greater production of potatoes and other vegetables and in the expansion of livestock breeding has been increasing, thereby leading to increased deliveries of agricultural products to the consumers cooperatives.

Consumers cooperatives have already begun to develop a broad program of trade in potatoes, vegetables, and fruits on a commission basis. Kolkhozes have the right to turn potatoes over to the consumer cooperative organizations on a commission basis after obligatory deliveries to the state have been fulfilled and grain stocks accumulated. Vegetables can be turned over by kolkhozes after fulfillment of their monthly delivery plans to the state, whether or not the procurement plan for the rayon as a whole has been fulfilled.

The article stated further that, as an additional incentive, consumers cooperatives were now permitted to sell to a kolkhoz automobiles, trailers, electric motors, lumber, roofing and section iron, slate, nails, and other manufactured goods for agricultural or household use in amounts equal to the value of agricultural products bought by a consumers cooperative from the particular kolkhoz. In addition, kolkhozes which sell considerable quantities of meat and milk receive supplementary cash payments. Kolkhozes which enter into such agreements are advanced 30 percent of the purchase price of the products each quarter. This practice is being expanded to include individual suppliers who have fulfilled their obligations to the state and wish to turn over livestock products to consumers cooperatives in conformity with the system of state purchases. (48)

Sovetskaya Kirgiziya reported that the commodity turnover of trade enterprises in Tyant-Shan'skaya Oblast was increasing. In the first half of 1953, consumers cooperatives sold 2,800,000 rubles' worth of goods than in the same period of 1952. Several rural stores and other trade enterprises are now being constructed in various rayons. Over one million rubles have been appropriated in 1953 for such construction just for the oblast union of consumers cooperatives. (49)

Tadzhik SSR

A September 1953 article in Pravda stated that the trading network in rural localities of the Tadzhik SSR was constantly increasing. About 40 large rural stores have already been opened and 20 more stores were being built. A large department store has been opened in the center of Kuybyshevskiy Rayon. New department stores were also to be opened soon in Kaktashskiy, Ordzhonikidzeabadskiy, Bokhatinskiy, and other rayons. (50)

In the 15 September issue, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported that the Tadzhik SSR had been allocated 70 million rubles' worth of additional goods for 1953. In 1953, 32.7 percent more meat, 31 percent more fish products, 59.6 percent more animal fats, 29.1 percent more confectionery products, 18.3 percent more sugar, 72.2 percent more cheese, 38 percent more vegetable oil, and 47.3 percent more dairy products were to be sold in the republic than in 1952. The sale of manufactured goods, including motorcycles, automobiles, radio receivers, home refrigerators, and electrical heating devices, was also increasing greatly.

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In 1953, the Ministry of Trade established several stores and stalls for the sale of vegetables. The Stalinabad Food Trading Organization opened 13 vegetable stores in August.(51)

In another September 1953 article, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported that state, cooperative, and kolkhoz trade was undergoing great expansion in the Tadzhik SSR. In the second half of 1953, the population of the republic was to receive an additional supply of various food and manufactured products. In the first 9 months of 1953, 12 new rural stores, 5 specialized textile and footwear stores, and 14 specialized household goods stores were opened in rural areas.

The article criticized certain aspects of trade as follows: many stores failed regularly to meet the commodity turnover plan, the assortment of goods was inadequate, proper sanitary rules were not observed, and consumer demands were ignored. Stores located in the outskirts of the city were more poorly supplied with products than those located in the center.(52)

Turkmen SSR

According to Turkmeneskaya Iskra of 19 September 1953, trading organizations of the Turkmen SSR were not fully utilizing their resources for the optimum development of trade. The present trade network was not meeting the increased requirements of the consumer. Ashkhabad needed at least 20-40 new, well equipped stores. Existing warehouses were not meeting the needs of the trade network.

The article further complained that suppliers failed regularly to make full deliveries, did not provide a good assortment, and knowingly sent goods of inferior quality to the stores.(53)

Uzbek SSR

Pravda Vostoka of 9 September 1953 reported that the Tashkent City Executive Committee in a recent meeting concerning the food and manufactured goods trade in the city decided that there were still serious shortcomings in trade. The technique for serving customers was poor, stores were inadequately furnished with refrigerators and other equipment, and the trade network was unevenly distributed throughout the city, with few stores in the outskirts. The committee outlined practical measures for the improvement of trade in food and manufactured goods. It was decided to organize 20 retail stores and open as many as 40 new stores in the outskirts of the city for the sale of food and manufactured goods.(54)

A later edition of Pravda Vostoka continued to criticize trading organizations for serious shortcomings. Consumer demands were not considered, and mistakes were made in the delivery and distribution of goods.

According to the article, commodity turnover plans were not met by trading organizations of Andizhanskaya Oblast and by all the rayon organizations of the consumers cooperatives. Because of faulty planning, huge stocks of goods, exceeding normal limits, have accumulated at warehouses of trading organizations of Andizhanskaya Oblast.

For the second half of 1953, the article continued, additional supplies of goods, such as meat, butter, vegetable oil, sugar, and a number of other products, have been set aside for the Uzbek SSR.(55)

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Later in the month, another Pravda Vostoka article was critical of the work of trading organizations of the Uzbek SSR. Stores of the consumers cooperatives often failed to carry essential goods and such items as fabrics, sewn goods, footwear, cultural goods, and other products for which there was great demand. Investigation has shown that bases and warehouses of consumers cooperatives have sufficient quantities of goods, but the planning of the delivery of goods to the stores was still poorly organized. There have been instances when goods set aside for sale to workers and employees have been used for other purposes, such as sale to sovkhozes. The paper also complained that short weighing and measuring and overcharging still took place in the stores.(56)

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